

# GOLD STARS MOTHERS FAMILY MONUMENT EXTENSION ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. ANDY KIM**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 26, 2021*

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of the Gold Star Mothers Family Monument Extension Act of 2021.

Since our country's entrance into World War I, the Gold Star tradition has remained a simple, yet powerful reminder of all the sacrifices made by our servicemembers and their families. The qualities that our Gold Star Families possess are the qualities that we all seek in America: courage, perseverance, strength, and above all, an unflagging determination to see the right prevail.

The passage of this bill and the ultimate completion of the Gold Star Mothers Family National Monument would be the clearest display of gratitude from the American people. The monument would embody the spirit of national service, highlight the ongoing contributions Gold Star Families contribute to our communities, and provide visitors with a space to reflect and remember loss.

This bill would not have been possible without the tireless advocacy of Judith Young, a constituent of mine from Moorestown, New Jersey. I thank Judith for her work for the commemoration of Gold Star Families through the monument and thank the House for passing this meaningful legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the bipartisan work that was undertaken in the last Congress to get to this moment and the same work that was done to bring this bill to the floor.

# IN RECOGNITION OF THOMAS DOMBROSKI

**HON. RASHIDA TLAIB**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 29, 2021*

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Mr. Thomas "Tom" Dombroski, a long-time resident of Detroit, who contributed actively to several community-based organizations and was especially known for his service as a member of the board of the Southwest Detroit Community Benefits Coalition and as a proud member of the Teamsters.

Tom was a tough, big-hearted person whose sense of humor and warmth belied his tenacity in the fight to protect his community in southwest Detroit. Tom was a champion of the underdog and advocated for justice on behalf of those who needed it most. Before he retired, Tom's work with the Teamsters Union prepared him for his second act in life as a community advocate for equitable development of the Gordie Howe Bridge international border crossing in Detroit. He was outspoken in the fight for clean air and good quality of life for residents who will live in the shadow of the large-scale transportation infrastructure.

I have always known Tom to be generous with his time and energy. His spirit will be sorely missed by the community he served.

Please join me as we recognize Thomas Dombroski's many contributions to the families of southwest Detroit and beyond as we give honor to his memory.

# IN RECOGNITION OF JOSEPH COSTELLO ON HIS INDUCTION INTO THE LUZERNE COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME

**HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 29, 2021*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor former athlete, coach, and Northeastern Pennsylvania native Joseph Costello. Joseph will be inducted into the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame in 2021 for his distinct athletic and coaching achievements in the sport of track and field. He and his fellow inductees will be honored at a reception on August 8, 2021.

Each year, the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame honors those who have brought fame and recognition to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania through their outstanding achievements and contributions in athletic endeavors.

Joseph was a standout athlete in football and track and field at West Pittston High School from 1957 to 1961. He was a two-time PIAA District II champion in the shotput. Joseph continued his academic career at the University of Scranton where he earned an undergraduate degree in education and a master's degree in administration. In 1966, he began his teaching, coaching, and administrative career at Pittston Area High School.

In 1970, Joseph founded the Pittston Area track and field program, beginning his legendary coaching career. He developed and built the program on the foundation of measured and thoughtful coaching while fostering a strong feeder system which resulted in hundreds of students participating in the program under his leadership. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, the Pittston Area Patriots dominated regional track and field. Between 1980 and 1983, the team won 55 consecutive meets, four consecutive Wyoming Valley Conference (WVC) League championships, four consecutive PIAA District II championships, and four Jordan Relay titles, in addition to setting district records and winning state medals. In 1983, the Wilkes-Barre Times Leader named him the first WVC Track Coach of the Year.

Some of the impressive records set by Joseph's athletes still stand today in PIAA District II, nearly four decades later. The Pittston Area 4 x 400 relay record of 3:23.44 set in 1981 by state medalists Ed Zaleski, Al Michalec, Vince O'Boyle, and Jack Goldowski still stands, as does the District II record in the 400 of 48.74 seconds set in 1982 by state medalist Vince O'Boyle and the District II 4 x 800 relay record of 8:00.84 set in 1981 by Mike Lombardo, Jay Loughney, Joe Bannon, and Bruce Marancik. Many of Joseph's star athletes went on to have impressive collegiate careers at institutions such as East Stroudsburg University, Bucknell University, and Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

In 1983, Joseph retired from coaching to serve as the assistant principal of Pittston

Area High School, and in 1992, he was named principal, a position he held until his retirement in 1998. The effects of Joseph's coaching were felt in the years after his retirement during the 1984 and 1985 seasons as the Patriots went on to win 86 consecutive regular season WVC meets and six consecutive WVC and PIAA District II titles.

It is an honor to recognize Joseph on his induction into the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame. May his story and coaching career serve as an inspiration to the next generation of Pennsylvania athletes and coaches striving for excellence.

# IN RECOGNITION OF MTV'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 29, 2021*

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize MTV, on its 40th anniversary for the cultural imprint it has left on our country and the work it continues to do as one of the world's leading global youth brands. Throughout MTV's 40 years, the brand has created reality television, expanded the creative mediums of the music industry, and inspired our nation's youth. Today, this New York-born and bred brand reaches 180 countries and 1.8 billion people around the world.

In August 1981, MTV exploded onto the airwaves with the release of the first-ever music video, "Video Killed the Radio Star" by The Buggies. Shortly after, MTV began to define popular culture and the music industry in an unprecedented manner with popular music becoming more visual and dance and clothing styles garnering a greater importance to the whole experience of music. MTV's popularity grew to such heights that in 1984 it hosted the network's first Video Music Awards—known as the VMAs—ceremony at Radio City Music Hall in the great city of New York.

In 1985, MTV began to air safe sex Public Service Announcements (PSAs), making it one of the first television networks to do so. These safe-sex initiatives continued over the years through MTV's It's Your Sex Life campaign and more, helping to educate our nation's youth on the importance of safe sex practices. MTV was a pioneer in the nascent efforts to ensure our nation's teens and young adults had the knowledge to protect themselves from sexually transmitted diseases and infections, contributing to lowering the rates of such diseases in the following decades.

Continuing its work in this type of educational programming, in February 1992, MTV launched Choose or Lose during the 1992 presidential election. The awareness campaign successfully engaged young people by demystifying the political process, encouraging registration, stressing the importance of voting, and highlighting issues of daily importance to Americans. The Choose or Lose campaign contributed to a twenty percent increase in youth turnout during the 1992 general election and remains a model for encouraging youth voter engagement.

In 1996, MTV grew Choose or Lose to include a bus that toured 80,000 miles between forty-eight states to engage even more young